

Shanghai Weddings

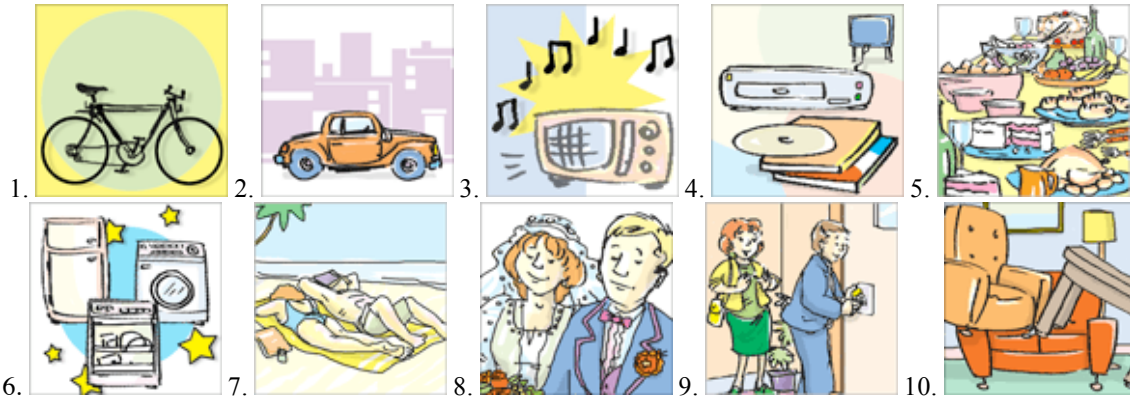
Pre-Reading Activities

A: Wedding Gifts

Today's article is about weddings and wedding gifts. Wedding gifts are presents you give to a couple who are getting married.

1. Look at the pictures below and match the words with the pictures.

- a. honeymoon b. bicycle c. car d. DVD player e. banquet f. apartment
g. household appliances h. studio wedding photo i. radio j. furniture



1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ 4. ____ 5. ____ 6. ____ 7. ____ 8. ____ 9. ____ 10. ____

(1 point each) Score ____/10

2. Work with your group and look at the pictures again. Discuss these questions for 5 to 10 minutes and then write your answers.

1. Which do you think are usually given as wedding gifts in Japan?

(2 points each) Score ____/6

2. Which would you like to be given at your wedding?

3. Are there any other gifts which are usually given in Japan that are not shown here? What are they?

B: Vocabulary

Match these words to the meanings below:

- a. newlyweds b. cost c. average d. salary e. essential f. replace

(1 point each) Score ____/6

1. ____ how much money you pay for something
2. ____ the money you receive every month for the work you do
3. ____ the usual or normal amount of something
4. ____ to use or give something instead of another thing
5. ____ something that is very important or absolutely necessary
6. ____ a husband and wife who have only been married a short time

Reading Activities

A: Listening

Listen to your teacher read today's article. Choose the best summary.

Today's article is about:

(3 points) Score ____/3

1. ...newlyweds in Shanghai.
2. ...the expense of getting married in Shanghai.
3. ...the expensive life of Chinese workers.
4. ...marriages in Shanghai one hundred years ago.

B: Question Word Order

With your group, use the words in parenthesis () to write a question. Then, read today's article out loud with your group. After reading out loud, discuss the answer with your group. After discussing the questions, write your answers.

(1 point for question / 2 points for answer) Score _____ /24

1. (in Shanghai Chinese worker How much does it cost an average to marry)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

2. (What have as essential gifts and bicycles replaced radios)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

3. (much increased the last How cost marrying of in years the has five?)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

4. (earn the average How much does city worker)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

5. (essentials twenty first century What are marriage)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

6. (couples in the 1970s What did receive)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

7. (Chinese traditional What is the wedding gift)

Question _____ ?

Answer _____

Getting Married Costs More in Shanghai

SHANGHAI Tues Sept 10 (Reuters) - Marrying in Shanghai now costs the average Chinese worker eight years of salary. DVD players and cars have replaced radios and bicycles as essential gifts for newlyweds who are setting up their first home, a state newspaper said on Tuesday.

The China Daily said the average cost of getting married in Shanghai was 150,000 yuan (\$18,000) which is double the amount 5 years ago. The average city worker earns 1,530 yuan (\$184) a month .

Twenty-first century marriage essentials now include a banquet for several hundred guests, studio wedding photos, a honeymoon, household appliances and an apartment. This is a big change from the 1970s when a couple received a bicycle, a radio and some furniture. Their marriage was **rubber-stamped** at a local government office.

But the traditional Chinese wedding gift is still money which is put into red envelopes.

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C: Reading for Detail

Read today's article again and then choose the best answer for each question.

(2 points each) Score _____ /6

1. **setting up** their first home in this sentence means:

- a. building their first home.
- b. organizing things for their first home.
- c. buying their first home.

2. Their marriage **was rubber -stamped** at a local government office means:

- a. the local government office agreed to the marriage.
- b. the local government office disagreed to the marriage.
- c. the local government office gave them the essential gifts.

3. 150,000 yuan (\$18,000) which is **double the amount 5 years ago** in this sentence means:

- a. 5 years ago it cost 75,000 yuan (\$9000) to have a wedding in Shanghai.
- b. 5 years ago it cost 150,000 yuan (\$18,000) to have a wedding in Shanghai.
- c. 5 years ago it cost 50,000 yuan (\$6,000) to have a wedding in Shanghai.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language

Look at the verbs in today's article and check (✓) which tense they are. Then write the correct form of the other tenses.

(1 point each) Score _____ /32

Verbs	a. Simple Present Tense	b. Present Perfect Tense	c. Present Continuous	d. Simple Past Tense
ex. costs	✓	has cost	is costing	cost
1. have replaced				
2. are setting up				
3. said				
4. was				
5. is				
6. earns				
7. include				
8. received				

B: Writing

Imagine that you and your boyfriend/girlfriend are organizing your wedding. Write a description of your wedding ceremony and reception.

Score _____ /10

E: New Words In the "Additional New Words and Expressions" section of your Reading Journal, add all the words you did not know in today's worksheet.

When you are finished, check your own answers and write your scores!

Answers to Check your Work

Pre-Reading Activities

Activity A: 1. b 2. c 3. i 4. d 5. e 6. g 7. a 8. h 9. f 10. j

Activity B: 1. b 2. d 3. c 4. f 5. e 6. a

Reading Activities

Activity A: 2

Activity B: 1. How much does it cost an average Chinese worker to marry in Shanghai? 2. What have replaced radios and bicycles as essential gifts?
3. How much has the cost of marrying increased in the last five years? 4. How much does the average city worker earn? 5. What are
twenty-first century marriage essentials? 6. What did couples receive in the 1970s? 7. What is the traditional Chinese wedding gift?

Activity C: 1. b 2. a 3. a

Post-Reading Activities

Activity A:

Verbs	a. Simple Present Tense	b. Present Perfect Tense	c. Present Continuous	d. Simple Past Tense
1. have replaced	replace/replaces	✓	am/is/are replacing	replaced
2. are setting up	set/sets up	has/have set up	✓	set up
3. said	say/says	has/have said	am/is/are saying	said
4. was	am/is/are	has/have been	am/is/are being	was/were
5. is	✓	has/have been	am/is/are being	was/were
6. earns	✓	has/have earned	am/is/are earning	earned
7. include	✓	has/have included	am/is/are including	included
8. received	receive/receives	has/have received	am/is/are receiving	received